

**MINUTES
OF
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING
and
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**August 22, 2017 – 1:00 p.m.
Audubon Center of the North Woods, Sandstone, Minnesota**

Chair Matt Ludwig called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Steve Hallan, Josh Mohr, Steve Chaffee and John Mikrot, Jr. Also present was County Administrator David Minke.

Others present: Kelly Schroeder, Land Services Director; Mitch Lundeen, Regional Clean Water Forester; Dan Steward, Board of Water and Soil Resources; and Bryan Wood, Executive Director of the Audubon Center of the North Woods.

The pledge of allegiance was said.

Those present introduced themselves.

Motion by Commissioner Hallan to approve agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion passed 5-0.

Bryan Wood, Executive Director of the Audubon Center of the North Woods welcomed the group to the center and presented information on the Audubon Center of the North Woods.

Dan Steward, Board of Water and Soil Resources Forester presented information on the importance of forests to water quality, including the need to actively manage a forest to keep it healthy.

Minnesota forest lands often include lakes which adds development pressure.

Kelly Schroeder, Director of Land Services updated the count board on the following:

- Willow River Transfer Station. The transfer station is in its first year of operation and going well.
- Household Hazardous Waste. The HHW site at the public works garage is functioning well. There was some discussion about having the site open on Wednesday to coincide with the flea market and if there would be a site in the northern part of the county or a mobile station. Kelly is also working to expand the advertising of the site.
- Comprehensive Plan: the commissioners reviewed the recommendations from the Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Ludwig called a recess at 3:15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened 3:25 p.m.

University of Minnesota Extension staff present included:

Susanne Hinrichs, Regional Director; Renee Kostick, Extension Educator; Heidi Vanderloop, 4-H program Coordinator; Jimmie Johnson, SNAP-Ed Educator; Terry Salmela, Master Gardener; Nathan Winter, Extension Program Leader, Center for Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources, Bruce Schwartau, Program Leader Community Economics; and Brenda Nelson, 4-H Science of Agriculture Coach.

Presentations were made on:


- The Science of Agriculture Challenge
- SNAP-ED
- County Agricultural Educator/Review of beef industry report
- Center for Community vitality and economic development.

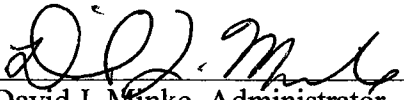
Copies of the 2018 University of Minnesota Extension budget request were distributed and reviewed. The request includes 6 months of funding for an additional “educator” for Pine County.

The commissioners reviewed the information from the presentations and identified the following items for follow up:

- Incorporate the Comprehensive Plan recommendations into the annual strategic planning process. The county board needs to provide leadership and direction on the zoning recommendation.
- Forestry is tied to water quality and important to Pine County. Develop ways to work with partners including the Pine Soil and Water Conservation District to improve water quality through management of public and private land.
- Determine what we want to do with county land. Is it being managed appropriately? What are our goals for management? How do we increase public access and use? What uses do we want to encourage?
- What are our goals for water quality? What is the role/utility of the Water Plan? How do we transition to the One Watershed One Plan concept?

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.


Matthew W. Ludwig, Chair
Board of Commissioners


David J. Minke, Administrator
Clerk to County Board